GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3643
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
RESULTS OF NEW AGRICULTURE POLICY
PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain positive results have been recorded in agricultural sec tor after announcement of new Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the logic behind adopting the new policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)to(c): The first ever National Agriculture Policy was announced in July, 2000.Various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented by the Government of India and the State Governments for development of agriculture and allied activities as envisaged in the Agriculture Policy. Following major initiatives have been taken recently to accelerate the pace of developmental activity and implement the objectives of the Agriculture Policy:

? Macro Management Scheme has been launched after integrating 27 ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes to enable a shift from programmatic approach to micro level planning at the State level for adopting crop/area specific regionally differentiated strategies, to provide flexibility to State Governments and to ensure timely and effective application of limited financial resources.

? Common guidelines have been issued for National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas to harmonize the implementing norms with other watershed development programmes. A Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs.200 crores each from NABARD and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, has been created.

? A Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern Region has been launched.

? Seed Legislation is under revision to provide fillip to varietal research and plant breeding. The Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers Rights Bill has been introduced in Parliament and a National Seed Policy is under formulation. A Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance has been lanched to cover the risks involved in seed production. A Seed Bank has been established to meet contingent requirements of seed in the wake of natural calamities.

? Increasing availability of farm credit: Till January, 2001, 115 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, providing flexibility and security in the flow of credit to the farmers. All eligible farmers are proposed to be covered under the scheme within the next 3 years. A personal insurance package is proposed to be extended to Card Holders covering them against risk to life and injury.

? A scheme has been introduced for provision of capital subsidy for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticultural produce.

? Rural Infrastructure Development Fund corpus has been increased in 2001-02 from Rs.4500 crore to Rs.5000 crore.

? Market Information Network has been launched with the objective to provide farmers latest information on price movements of agricultural commodities and other essential data.

? Cooperative Sector Reforms: a new Bill has been formulated and introduced in Parliament for replacing the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

? Formulation of new subsidy linked scheme for establishment of rural godowns.
? Promotion of Food Processing Industry and value addition in agriculture through the excise exemptions and other interventions.

The results of these initiatives/schemes will be visible in due course of time.